

# BYLAWS AND AGREEMENT FOR NEWLY PLANTED CHURCHES

## ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

To obey Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations and to establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten son, through the Holy Spirit, and for the promotion of Christian fellowship and edification.

## ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

To have a membership which is determined by the local assembly and the Rocky Mountain District Church Handbook and to disciple and discipline its members according to the Scriptures.

## ARTICLE IV. GOVERNMENT

1. This assembly shall be affiliated with The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God.
2. Members may be accepted into the local church. Applications for membership shall be approved jointly by the Pastor and the Sectional Presbyter.
3. The District Superintendent, acting as President and Chairman, District Secretary-Treasurer, acting as Legal Secretary, Sectional Presbyter, Sectional Committeemen, together with the Pastor, shall comprise the official church board. If there are members in the local congregation who qualify according to the Scriptures as a Deacon, they may be appointed by the official church board to serve as an Advisory Committee, the Pastor serving as the chairperson of the Committee.
4. The Pastor shall be appointed by the District Presbytery, upon the recommendation of local Sectional Presbyter, and shall be appointed for an indefinite period of time.
5. The Pastor shall be the spiritual overseer of the Assembly, providing for the care, nurture, and discipleship of the congregation. He/She shall direct the business affairs and administration of the church. The church ministry leadership shall be appointed and supervised by the Pastor. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
6. All action taken under the Bylaws and Agreement shall be subject to review and approval of the District Presbytery.
7. An annual evaluation of the Pastor shall be conducted under the auspices of the Official Church Board. Other church leaders and ministries may be evaluated by the Official Church Board at its discretion.

## ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

This Assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and, for the purpose of maintaining general unity, shall adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths, approved by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

1. Whereas the Scriptures clearly state "the workman is worthy of his hire" (Luke 10:7; I Timothy 5:18), the church shall accept the responsibility of faithfully supporting its ministries with their tithes and offerings. An equitable financial arrangement for the Pastor shall be reached at the time of appointment, and reviewed annually under the supervision of the District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer or their designated agent.
2. The District Affiliated Church shall endeavor to support Home and World Missions.

3. The Pastor shall call a meeting of the church at least once a year, and he/she or someone instructed by him/her, shall give a financial report. All church funds shall be properly accounted for in the local church financial records. The Bylaws and Agreement for District Affiliated Churches shall be read or made available to the congregation at this annual meeting.
4. The Pastor shall ensure that financial reports are submitted according to District requirements.
5. The church shall abide by a financial plan. The official church board shall approve the financial plan and any revisions.
6. The purchase or sale of property as well as any indebtedness shall be brought to the District Presbytery for their consideration and approval.

#### **ARTICLE VII. DISCIPLINE**

1. When general dissatisfaction arises in a district-affiliated church, a business meeting may be called by the District Superintendent.
2. Discipline of members shall be the responsibility of the Senior Pastor and Sectional Presbyter under the direction of the Official Church Board. The member has the right of appeal to the District Executive Presbytery.
3. If at any time the Pastor wishes to leave the church, he/she shall resign to the Official Church Board. In the event a pastor has serious charges preferred against him/her, or his/her ministry ceases to be effective, the District Presbytery may terminate his/her appointment.”

#### **ARTICLE VIII. SUPERVISION**

1. All district-affiliated churches shall function under the authority of the District Presbytery Board. Direct supervision shall be carried out by the District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer or their designated agent.
2. Construction or remodeling of district-affiliated church facilities, including parsonages, shall be under the supervision of the District Presbytery.
3. Operational direction will be detailed in the District Church Handbook.

#### **ARTICLE IX. PROPERTIES**

All properties shall be secured to The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God.

#### **ARTICLE X. OBJECTIVES**

Each minister pastoring a district-affiliated church will endeavor to develop the church to a place of maturity where it may be organized into a General Council affiliated assembly.

#### **ARTICLE XI. REPRESENTATION**

Each district-affiliated church shall be given the privilege of sending one accredited delegate to the District Council and sectional elections.